

Tip Hero's Ultimate Guide to Homemade Cleaners



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Welcome to Tip Hero's first ever ebook: your ultimate guide to homemade cleaner recipes!

It is our hope that these recipes help to serve all of your homemade cleaning needs and, in true Tip Hero fashion, help you to save money at the same time!

Now, homemade cleaners are obviously made up of things that we still need to buy. However, you save money by using items that you'd already have stocked in your home anyway that have multiple uses and purposes. Tip Hero Becca puts it wonderfully:

"All homemade cleaners are comprised of things you first have to buy and recombine. So to me, it is more a matter using purchased items in unexpected ways. And I find I need extremely few types of cleaners."

The recipes provided are all simple to make with cheap and handy items. And you'll find that many of these recipes require similar ingredients. Some of the following are from around the web, but many of these suggestions came straight from your fellow Tip Heroes!

We hope you enjoy our ultimate guide and that it is helpful for all of your cleaning needs. And as always, thanks for being a Tip Hero!

Sincerely,

Kira @ Tip Hero

All-Purpose Cleaners



Clean pretty much any surface in your home with the following homemade solutions!

Quick Anytime Cleaner

From: guinelady

"Toothpaste! For tougher dirt, add a little hydrogen peroxide to toothpaste. Great cleaner for everything!"

General Spray Bottle Cleaner

From: M McBride

"This all-purpose cleaning solution has been in our family for years. It is inexpensive and easy to make:

1 teaspoon bleach
1/2 cup Isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol
3 1/2 cups water

Put in a spray bottle. Can be used for general cleaning including windows, kitchen, bathroom, mopping, etc."

General Spray Bottle Cleaner II

From: bobbie g

"Mix in inexpensive spray bottle:

1 T Borax
3 T white vinegar
2 cups water
1 T inexpensive dish soap

If you want a scent, you can add a drop of any essential oil.
I have used this for years and have no reason to change."

General Spray Bottle Cleaner III

From: Gordon

"Into a spray bottle put; 2 drops of dish soap, a cap full of bleach. Fill with water. I use this as a general purpose cleaner to clean everything. You can also add a few table spoons of Isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol."

Zesty All-Purpose Cleaner

From: Oneinamillion

"I take a potato peeler and peel the rind from oranges, lemons and grapefruits then I put them in a jug of vinegar. After a week or so use the vinegar in water for cleaning. The citrus oils really cut through grease. For a general spray add about a quarter cup of the vinegar to a spray bottle, add a few drops of liquid dish soap then fill with water. Makes an excellent floor cleaner also."

Alternative to Cocktail Hour

From: PAHopkins

"Vodka. The cheapest bottle of Vodka you can find. Lightly dampen a rag with the Vodka, use it to sterilize everything. Just wipe the area with the damp Vodka rag then wipe with a dry rag. It will make your faucets, counter tops and appliances shine. Cheap Vodka is under \$6 a bottle and lasts a really, really long time. If you don't like the smell (disappears quickly) add a couple drops of lemon juice."

DIY Disinfectant Wipes

From: Bohemian Revolution

Make Them As You Go:

-Cut up paper towels to the right size(s) for the job.

-Store them next to a spray bottle of homemade cleaner. You could use diluted apple cider vinegar, diluted white vinegar, liquid disinfectant, witch hazel, lemon juice or bleach mixed with water. Store different solutions in different parts of your home depending on the types of cleaning you do there.

-Grab the appropriate sized paper towel for the job you're doing, spray it to saturation with your solution, and get cleaning!

Inhibit Mold and Cut Grease

From: Alyssia

"My homemade cleaner can be used anywhere! It inhibits mold and mildew growth, cuts grease, provides resistance to disease, aids in clearing up respiratory disorders, increases mental activity & awareness, decreases anxiety by promoting relaxation, improves alertness and invigorates, helps fight insomnia, is also useful an insecticide that is not harmful for humans (assuming you don't try to drink the concoction!), and is great to even use in a vaporizer or diffuser or spray mist around sick persons with flu or other illnesses.

And guess what?!

The best part is that it smells like Fruit Loops cereal, but even better!

All you do is take a spray bottle and fill it with pure, cold water (about 1 to 2 cups).

Add the following inexpensive essential oils :

10 drops lemon essential oil
 10 drops orange essential oil
 20 to 30 drops tea tree oil
 20 drops lavender essential oil
 10 drops rosemary essential oil

Recap your bottle, shake & use on countertops, floors, tubs, tile, ... ANYWHERE!

While I wouldn't advise leaving this around for small children to have drinking access, it will not hurt for you to spray this in food areas.

I promise you, the bottles of oil aren't that pricey for three reasons :

- 1) If you buy from the right company (I like "NOW" brand) and from a reliable, inexpensive source (I prefer iherb.com), then these are pretty darn cheap to purchase.
- 2) The bottles will last aeons. Well, a long time, especially if you buy the larger bottles.
- 3) These plant sources are simply not near as costly as some of the other essential oils.

The other great thing is that you can whip this up in record time plus you can change the ratios to your scent preference. This is a good blend to diffuse in a room where college kids are studying for a big test (the rosemary especially increases awareness).

I have never used a commercial cleaner that could come anywhere close to this one in respect to function or smell. If you need something abrasive, you just add some of the oil-infused water to make a paste with baking soda. The only thing this can't do is remove deep stains. Other than that, it does pretty much everything a cleaner should! If you need it to have suds, you can

always a little dishwashing liquid or some old shampoo you aren't planning on using (just make sure the scents don't collide). I have figured up the final cost of this solution and it is as follows :

Under the estimation of approximately 30 drops per 1ml in a 30ml bottle of essential oils & the summation thereof, we end up with :

Lavender oil 25 cents per ml (30 drops)
 Tea Tree oil 23 cents per ml (30 drops)
 Lemon oil 6 cents per 1/3 ml (10 drops)
 Orange oil 4 cents per 1/3 ml (10 drops)
 Rosemary oil 6 cents per 1/3 ml (10 drops)

Add 2 cups of water (free) & you get :

2 cups of cleaning solution for 64 cents!

And it's healthy, effective in so many ways & smells awesome!

I have been using this blend (which I created myself) for countless years in lieu of evil chemical cleansers that cost far more.

Warning & Disclaimer:

While I have never had anything but positive results with my oil blend, I also realize that everyone's body chemistry varies and there may allergic reactions in some persons.

Keep out of reach of small children!

Please do your research before delving into the world of essential oils so you will know your potential risks & remember that, with essential oils, less is usually more (kind of like perfume).

Rosemary may attribute to causing epileptic seizures in some persons. Use all essential oils with wisdom & caution. I am not responsible for any incidents caused by the misuse and/or regular intended use of essential oils. Please consult a physician before use especially if you are lactating, pregnant or suspect you are pregnant."

Floor Cleaners

Whether you need to get a tough stain out of your carpet, scrub your tile, or make your hardwood shine, we've got you covered.

Multi-Surface Solutions



All-Purpose Floor Cleaner

From: rainbowridergma

"I use a pint spray bottle. Put a dash of vinegar, a dash of rubbing alcohol, a squirt of dish washing detergent and fill the rest of the bottle with water. Shake. My kind of cleaner-simple and handy. I must confess I originally made it to kill flies. It stunned them so that I could get them - waahaha, but I also noticed it was cleaning whatever got sprayed. Does a great job on tile floors. I have even used it on carpet stains and upholstery stains with really good results."

Cleaning Hard-to-Reach Floor Areas

From: LavendarLady 101

"To clean under stove or refrigerator, washer, dryer, etc., I cover a fly swatter with a piece of paper towel folded in half (covering the swatter). Then take a long needle or quilting pin and weave it through the holes in the swatter. Sometimes I use a thin cleaning cloth and dampen the cloth with one of the above cleaning solutions."

Tile Floors

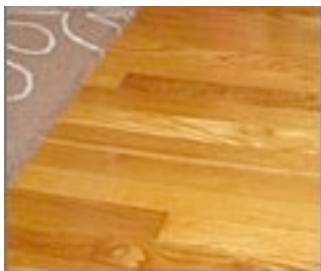


Scuff Mark Remover

From: Tip Hero

"Remove scuff marks with a solution of 1/2 cup baking soda and a bucket of warm water. Mop and rinse for a clean and sparkling floor."

Hardwood/Linoleum



DIY Swiffer Wet Jet Refills

From: Dab

"Swiffer wet jet refill for wood floors:

- Unscrew the cap using a wrench to break the safety seal
- Add 1 capful Murphy's Oil Soap
- Fill the rest with water
- Replace the cap

Swiffer wet jet refill for other types of flooring:

-Replace the Oil Soap with Pine Sol"

Carpet



Carpet Cleaning Foam

From: Tip Hero

"For a carpet cleaning foam, mix together 1/4 cup vegetable oil-based liquid soap and 3 tablespoons or more of water. Whip these in a bowl with an egg beater and rub into problem area of a rug. When finished, rinse well with water."

Carpet and Upholstery Stain Remover

From: Frugal Living

Mix together some white vinegar and baking soda to form a paste. Then work this solution into any carpet or upholstery stains with a toothbrush. Let the paste dry, then vacuum up the baking soda. The stains should disappear right along with it.

Glass Cleaners



Two-Ingredient Glass Cleaner

From: graciasmama

"Vinegar and water mixed in a spray bottle for cleaning windows and mirrors. And you can use old newspapers instead of paper towels to clean mirrors and windows too. I also use white vinegar instead of fabric softener."

Easy Window Cleaner

From: Tamara

"-32 oz spray bottle
-1/4 cup Vinegar
-1 TBSP Rubbing Alcohol

Fill with water, then add 2 drops of dish detergent.

Best Window Cleaner Ever."

Homemade TV Cleaner

From: Dab

"It's recommended that you don't use glass cleaner on a flat screen television. (Check your particular manufacturer's instructions) Specially made products can be costly.

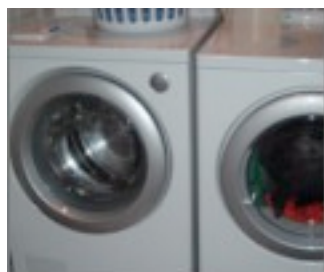
Homemade T.V. Cleaner

What you'll need:

Spray bottle filled with-
10% rubbing alcohol
90% water
cellulose sponge
microfiber cloth

- Unplug T.V.
- Spray the sponge with solution
- Work in a small circular motion one section at a time
- Dry the cleaned section with the micro fiber cloth
- Repeat if necessary"

Laundry



Homemade "Oxy Clean" Recipe

From: Single Mommy Savings

"Homemade "OxyClean" Recipe (I use this for white socks, undershirts, wash cloths, etc.)

4 cups water
2 cups hydrogen peroxide
2 cups baking soda

Mix together and soak laundry overnight.

Add a little water to ensure the clothes stay wet but not so much to dilute the recipe.

Wash as usual (I do not rinse, just throw in the washer)

Reduce/multiply recipe as needed to accommodate laundry size.

Thanks!"

Simple Way to Freshen Laundry Loads

From: Ginger

"I add a half cup of vinegar to every color laundry load. It freshens our clothes, and keeps the washing machine free from all odors. Costco sells gallon sized jugs of vinegar very inexpensively."

Cheap Alternative to Dryer Sheets

From: Jane in Oregon

"Chemicals in the dryer sheets will eventually clog the screen in your dryer which over time may be a fire hazard. I mix 1 bottle of the cheapest hair conditioner I can find (try the dollar store) with a half gallon of white vinegar. This will store very well in a gallon container such as a milk jug. Fill a spray bottle with this mixture and spray 5-6 times into a dryer full of wet clothes. They will be just as soft as if you had used a dryer sheet, your screen will not clog, and you won't find those dryer sheets hiding in your dried load. There will not be a vinegar smell either, but if you want a nice smell, add an essential oil that you like.

For "ring around the collar, you can't beat shampoo...just the cheap kind from the dollar store. Rub it in and add to load of wash."

Laundry Soup I

From: nap2ral

"1 Cup Borax
1 Cup Super Washing Soda
3/4 Cup Dr Bronner's Soap (Grated the ground to powder in food processor)Ground a whole bar and put excess aside for future use.

2 tbsp per load for HE washer"

Laundry Soap II

From: smkash

"I have been making my own laundry detergent for about a year and a half now and love it! This recipe is also very good for those that have skin allergies and need to be careful about the dyes and scents in normal detergent. The total price of these ingredients usually run about \$1.25 a pot and a pot usually makes about 2 gallons of detergent.

1 bar Fels-Naptha (I usually grate it)

1 cup of Arm and Hammer Super Washing Soda

1 cup of Lye Soap (I usually get a bar of this at Cracker Barrel and grate it as needed)

Start by boiling 4 cups of water in a large pot. Add in the Fels-Naptha and let it boil until you don't see the soap pieces any longer. Add in water to about 1/2 way up the pot and add the Washing Soda and Lye Soap. Bring that to a boil and then add water until the top of the pot. Let it sit for about an hour stirring occasionally. Using a funnel I pour it into old gallon milk jugs."

Kitchen



Gunk Remover for Pots and Pans

From: jab

"Baked on gunk on your roasting pans, sprinkle with baking soda. Also your ceramic stove top by the time your are done with the dishes, just wipe off your stove top and a light scrub on your pan."

Tough-Acting Coffee Stain Remover

From: MamaBeak

"The only thing that would remove the coffee stains from a stainless steel travel mug was a product called Dip-It, expensive for a tiny box. When I realized that the ingredients in Dip-It were hydrogen peroxide and washing soda, I filled the mug with boiling water and added 1 teaspoon washing soda and 1 tablespoon hydrogen peroxide. I let it stand for several hours and you could see the oil from the coffee floating on the top! I dumped it out and washed the mug well, and my coffee no longer tasted bitter. Works on thermoses and ceramic mugs, too."

Heavy Duty Oven Cleaner

From: Tip Hero

"For an oven cleaner in a spray bottle, combine 2 tablespoons vegetable oil soap and 2 tablespoons borax with warm water. Spray this mixture on the oven and leave on for 20 minutes before scrubbing."

Easy Microwave Cleaner

From: Shelley

"To get the cooked on food, etc., out of your microwave easily, place a microwave safe bowl inside with hot water and a teaspoon of lemon juice (the lemon juice is optional). Heat till it boils and let sit for about 5 minutes. Remove it and wipe your microwave clean. The steam makes the food loose for easy wiping."

Bathroom



Easy Soap Scum Remover

From: Leanne Toohey

"Dryer sheets dissolve soap scum in the shower like magic. I don't know if this counts as a homemade cleaner but it sure does work!"

Spotless Shower Cleaner

From: lou121547

"Use vinegar and baking soda..I take a rag and saturate it with vinegar and wipe the shower, tub, faucets. Then I take the same rag and sprinkle baking soda on it and wipe over where you wipe with the vinegar. Spray down with shower hose. Use rag to wipe down or leave it. You can also do your shower curtain. This really works. I use vinegar for everything. That is white vinegar."

Gentle Bathtub and Shower Cleaner

From: annettey

"Very effective bathtub and shower cleaner..."

In a spray bottle-mix half white vinegar and half water. I also put about 10 drops of dish detergent and a drop or two of lavender -or- tea tree essential oil in the bottle and give it a good shake. Just spray down the shower and tub and let soak for a minute. Next, sprinkle a little Borax on the bottom of the tub and scrub everything down with a wet sponge. This works great for soap scum and no harmful fumes!"

Drain Cleaners



Simple Drain Cleaner I

From: Cathy2516

"To clean drains I shake a little baking soda into it and then chase that with vinegar. Keeps drains in great shape without a lot of chemicals."

Simple Drain Cleaner II

From: Wise Bread

Simply mix together 1/2 cup of table salt and 1/2 cup of baking soda. Pour this mixture down the troubled drain and leave it there for 10-20 minutes. Then pour a good amount of boiling water down the drain to clear it.

Toilet De-clogger

From: Wise Bread

Pour about 1/4 cup of dish detergent into a clogged toilet. Then start boiling some water. The dish soap will work as a lubricant to help break up any greasy residue. Once the water is boiled, pour it into the toilet and start plunging.

Denture Tablet Method

From: Yahoo! Voice

Drop 3 or 4 denture cleansing tablets directly into your clogged drain. Chase that with a cup of white vinegar and let it sit for 10-15 minutes. Next, pour plenty of hot water down the drain and it should open right up.

Car Cleaners



Exterior Car Soap

From: Gather Little by Little

In a large bucket, mix up:

- 1 cup of liquid dish detergent
- 12 tablespoons of laundry detergent
- enough water to fill the bucket

Use a sponge to get your car squeaky clean.

Car Windshield Cleaners

From: frank

"Mix 1 part vinegar and 2 parts water for cleaning car windows, works on house windows too. Wipe clean with newspaper or a shammie."

Non-abrasive Tire Cleaner

From: Gather Little by Little

Mix up the following ingredients and use, with a sponge, to scrub tires clean:

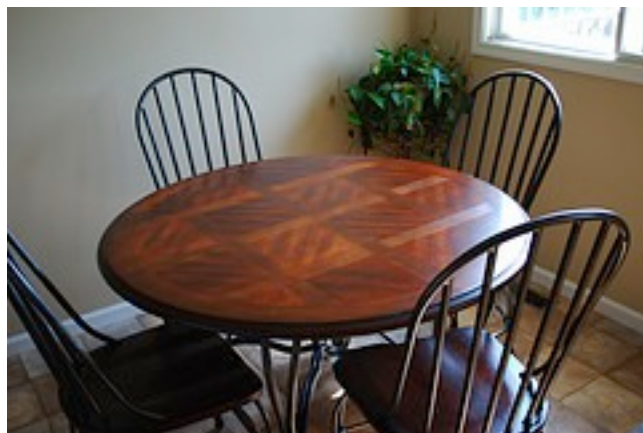
- 1/4 cup borax
- Vegetable oil-based liquid soap (i.e. Murphy's Oil Soap)
- 1/2 teaspoon of lemon oil
- 1 teaspoon bleach

Interior Cleaner

From: Frugal Living

Combine equal parts white vinegar and water in a spray bottle. Then spray this onto any vinyl, plastic, wood or leather car surfaces that need cleaning. Allow the solution to soak in and then wipe dry with a clean rag.

Furniture Revivers



Wooden Furniture Polish

From: care2

Create a polish by combining 1/4 cup of olive oil with a few drops of white distilled vinegar or lemon juice. The vinegar will pull the dirt out of the wood and the oil will lubricate it so that it doesn't dry out.

Furniture Dusting Spray

From: The "Make Your Own" Zone

Mix together 2 tablespoons of olive oil with 1/2 teaspoon of lemon essential oil, 1/4 cup white vinegar and 1 3/4 cups water in a spray bottle. Shake mixture well and then spray onto wooden furniture. Use a soft cloth to dust and wipe the surface clean.

Upholstery Cleaner

From: Stain Removal 101

Use this recipe especially to remove fruit and berry stains from upholstered furniture. Combine 1 tablespoon of white vinegar with 2/3 cups of rubbing alcohol. Blot this mixture onto stains with a clean white cloth until stain is removed. Finish by using a new white cloth with cold water to sponge the now stain-free area and remove the cleaning solution. Blot dry.

Upholstery Cleaning Paste

From: Stain Removal 101

For small spot cleaning on upholstery, combine 1/2 cup baking soda with 1/2 cup corn starch and enough water to make a thick paste. Apply this paste to the fabric and let it dry. Once it's dry, carefully brush or scrape off the paste and vacuum up the leftover flakes.

*Photo credit (photo 1): Fort Bend County